

04: Categorical Variables + Intro to Quantitative Variables

Stat 120 | Fall 2025

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The lab manual data **Pew** contains data from a January 2014 Pew Research Center survey about the Internet. We'll consider two variables from this survey:

- **income**: the person's yearly income, grouped into four categories
- **values**: an answer to the question asking if the Internet has been a "good thing"

```
library(tidyverse)
```

0. Import the data into R by running the following code chunk. Click on the dataset in the environment pane to pull up the data viewer. Can you see the "spreadsheet view"?

```
pew = read_csv("http://www.math.carleton.edu/Stat120/RLabManual/Pew.csv")
```

1. The code below computes the **frequency table** for the **values** variable. Add a "pipe" (**%>%**) and another command to answer: what proportion of respondents said that the Internet *has* been a good thing?

```
table(pew$values)
```

```
bad good  
140  556
```

2. Using **esquisse**, make a bar plot of the counts of people who said the Internet has vs. has not been a good thing. Insert your code in the chunk below.

3. Show the two-way table for the **values** and **income** variables. How many people from the survey had an income above \$150,000 a year and thought the Internet was a bad thing?

```
table(pew$income, pew$values)
```

| | bad | good |
|--------------|-----|------|
| 0-30000 | 57 | 133 |
| 150000 | 5 | 64 |
| 30000-75000 | 50 | 206 |
| 75000-150000 | 28 | 153 |

4. The table in part 3 shows the income categories in the wrong order (i.e., not in order of increasing income). You can fix this by changing the order of the categories of the `income` variable as below (see Appendix A.1 of the lab manual). Remake the table after reordering the categories.

```
pew$income <- factor(pew$income, levels = c("0-30000", "30000-75000",  
                                             "75000-150000", "150000"))
```

5. Use `esquisse` to make a *stacked barplot* of `income` and `values`.
6. Your bar plot by default should show the *counts* of each combination. Copy and paste your bar plot code, and change `geom_bar()` to `geom_bar(position = "fill")`. Explain what this chunk of code did.

Stop Here and let Amanda know you've finished with the categorical EDA section

A third variable in the dataset is `age`. The next few questions walk through how to do basic EDA for a quantitative variable.

7. Create a histogram of the `age` variable using `esquisse`
8. In the empty code chunk below, run `mean(pew$age)` and `median(pew$age)`. Now try `mode(pew$age)`. What happened?
9. Using your answers to the previous two questions, describe the distribution of `age`.